

NEWS-HERALD PUBLICATIONS

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

August 1, 1951

I have been the Publisher of this newspaper for the past 15 years. In this time I have not run into anything which has created so much interest as George Todt's column "In My Opinion".

Since this feature started, we have been deluged with phone calls, letters, and visits from persons who have liked what he wrote and the unpretentious way in which it was written.

In addition, he has had responses from some very prominent people who have read his articles. Included are warm personal messages from the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary to the President, General Eisenhower's aide, Mr. Churchill's secretary, Senator Taft, Mr. Hoover, and others who have seen fit to commend his writings to date.

Mr. Todt is a brand new post war personality who has recently emerged on the local scene. He ought to go far if he makes the right connections.

Before I asked Mr. Todt to write his column for my paper, I made a very competent check into his personal background. The results were very favorable.

He is the secretary of the Pasadena Chapter of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, vice president of the Deke Alumni Association of Southern California, and has received a three year appointment recently to the Americanism Committee of Hollywood Post 43 of the American Legion.

He has had an extensive educational background which includes courses at Oxford and the French Sorbonne. In addition, he has graduated from the Broadcasters Network Studios of Hollywood and is an accomplished news analyst and commentator.

Your attention is invited to his work.

Yours very truly,

PJF:h

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October 2, 1952

Dear General Smith:

I am wholly in agreement with your recent statement concerning infiltration of Stalinist spies in all departments of our government and defense agencies. The public may be a little too shocked to relish the truth about this matter, but yours was the voice of logic and reason in this case.


Enclosed are a couple of my columns which were written prior to your recent statement which I think you will be much in accord with. On the back page of the article written on September 12th you will find that I have written very much like you testified before the Committee. I have indicated these passages with arrows.

I am sure you already know that it is never too popular to advise an ostrich to get its head out of the sand in order to take a look at the approaching hungry bear. An ostrich hates to be worried about the facts of life. That is why he buries his head in the sand in the first place.

I know that you spoke the truth, and that is all any patriotic American can be expected to do. The hour may be getting very late indeed--and it is high time that the American ostrich takes its head out of the sand if he expects to survive in the present world jungle he is living in.

With admiration of a great citizen who has proved himself many times over, I remain:

Sincerely yours,


George H. Todt, Columnist
"In My Opinion"

General Walter Bedell Smith
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.